



Clear Lake  
Reporter  
Clear Lake, IA  
Circ. 2315  
From Page:  
1  
5/11/2005  
44566



# Governor will kick off Great Places program here 108

State leaders will be in Clear Lake Tuesday, May 17, to kick off a series of state forums to help educate communities about the new Iowa Great Places program.

Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack signed an executive order in January to create and implement the program, which is designed to combine state government resources with local efforts by government, community leaders and businesses. The focus will be cultivating the unique and

authentic qualities existing within communities and transforming them into special places to live and work. The program is intended to capitalize on a variety of resources, including arts culture, historic areas, natural resources and business development.

Governor Vilsack will be in Clear Lake to kick off the first public workshop about the program.

The program will begin at 4 p.m. and is expected to last two hours.

By June 30, three communities or regions will be selected to participate in pilot programs for the Great Places program. The pilot programs will be awarded to the most creative and innovative communities or regions, say state leaders. Throughout July and August, Great Places "coaches" will then work with each place to finalize their offers for a final selection presentation in September. By Oct. 1, a citizen advisory council appointed by Vilsack will help select the three pilot Great Places.

"This could be a very beneficial program for the Clear Lake/Ventura area and the region," said Paul Stevenson, 2005 Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce president. He encourages community members to help in this effort by attending the May 17 program at the Surf.